(d) whether the Centre would consider this request for aid favourably on humanitarian and compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Government of Karnataka has reported that the State Government had taken prompt relief measures such as rescue and relief; payment of ex-gratia to the victims; restoration of damaged public property; and relocation of 8 badly affected villages in the wake of earthquake of September, 1993.

(b) No such survey has been reported;

(c) Government of Karnataka has prepared and submitted to Government of India, for seeking assistance from the World Bank, a Project proposal for relocation of 48 villages and construction of earthquake resistant houses at a cost of Rs. 93.541 crores.

(d) Government of Karnataka has been requested to make some modifications in the Project proposal. After these modifications are made, the proposal will be considered for posing to the World Bank for assistance.

Study on soil suitability for tobacco cultivation

3265. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to direct ICAR to conduct a special study on the soil suitability of upland areas of West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh for tobacco cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) how does Government propose to encourage tribal farmers to go for lucrative cash crops like tobacco; and

(e) whether any discussion has been held with the state Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) had conducted soil suitability studies and has indicated areas suitable for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco in West Godavari district and Burley tobacco in the Agency area of East Godavari district.

(d) A high-yielding FCV variety CM-12 has been evolved and the crop production technology for its cultivation is being disseminated to the farmers, a majority of whom are tribals. CTRI has also established a sub station to serve the interests of tribal farmers of West Godavari district. A Burley Research Centre has been established in the tribal area of Jeddangi to help the tribal farmers in getting higher productivity and better quality of Burley tobacco. A high yielding exotic variety Benket—A1 has been introduced in the tribal area.

(e) In the production of Burely tobacco, Girijan Co-operative Corporation, Intensive Tribal Development Agency and the Department of Agriculture are co- operating with CTRI in the promotion of cultivation of tobacco.

Revamping of consultancy schemes by FAO

3266. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has revamped its consultancy scheme; and

(b) how far this move will lead to make FAO's programme of Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries (TCDC) useful to India and benefit it, particularly allowing the Indian scientists to put their knowledge and skills to wider use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) We have no information about revamping of the Consultancy Scheme by the FAO. However, with a view to promote individual and collective self-reliance and sharing of technical

expertise amongst developing Countries in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the FAO has recently taken certain steps for promoting the existing scheme of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).

Under this the FAO will now meet the expenditure involved in deputing technical experts among developing countries by reimbursing to the releasing Government, the cost of international and internal travel, medical insurance, contribution towards the salary of the expert, payment of daily allowance etc. The country receiving the expert would only be obliged to meet the expenditure on local hospitality.

This programme would be useful and beneficial to all developing member countries including India as it would provide financial support for deputing their scientists and experts to other developing countries to share their knowledge and expertise.

Targets and Achievements of milk production

3267. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for the production of milk and the actual achievement made during the Seventh Plan Period;

(b) the target set for the production of milk during the Eighth Plan and the total production of milk in the country so far;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production to achieve the target;

(d) the projections made for the Ninth Plan Period; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) During the Seventh Plan, the targets set for milk production and its actual achievement made was 51.0 and 51.4 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The Eighth Plan target set for milk production is 70 million tonnes and the provisional estimated milk production is 60.8 million tonnes during 1993-94.

(c) All round efforts are being made to increase milk production in the country as follows:

(1) Genetic improvement of nationally important cattle breeds by selective breeding in selected areas;

(2) Cross-breeding of non-descript cattle with exotic dairy breeds;

(3) Genetic improvement of important buffalo breeds by selective breeding and upgrading of non- descript buffaloes in other areas for improvement in milk yields;

(4) Development of feed and fodder resources;

(5) Organisation of effective animal health services to support the production programme;

(6) Implementation of Operation Flood Programme and

(7) Integrated Dairy Development Scheme in non-operation flood, hilly and backward areas.

(d) No projections have yet been made in respect of milk production during the Ninth Plan Period.

(e) Does not arise.

केसर की खेती

3268. श्री सोमपाल: क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार केसर की खेती को बढ़ावा देने और इसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने हेतु कोई विशेष योजना बना रही है;

(ख) क्या राष्ट्रीय कृषि एवं ग्रामीण विकास बैंक इस प्रयोजनार्थ विशेष ऋण उपलब्ध कराने पर विचार कर रह है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस प्रयोजनार्थ कौन-कौन से क्षेत्रों की पहचान की गई है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविंद नेताम): (क) भारत सरकार मसालों के विकास के लिए केन्द्र द्वारा प्रायोजित एकीकृत कार्यक्रम का कार्यान्वयन कर रही है। इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत, केसर की खेती को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बीज बहु-गुणन भूखण्डों तथा केसर के प्रदर्शन भूखण्डों की स्थापना जैसे उपाय किए जा रहे है।